

DANIEL T. SATTERBERG
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Office of the Prosecuting Attorney
W400 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104
(206) 296-9067
FAX (206) 296-9013

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The Honorable Barbara Madsen, Chief Justice
C/O Clerk of the Court
Washington State Supreme Court
Temple of Justice
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Chief Justice Madsen & Justices of the Supreme Court,

Thank you for soliciting comments to the proposed amendments to Criminal Rule 2.3 (authorizing submission of search warrant affidavits by facsimile or electronic mail) and Criminal Rule 3.2.1 (authorizing the submission of evidence for determination of probable cause for arrest by facsimile or electronic mail). I urge the Court to adopt the proposed amendments.

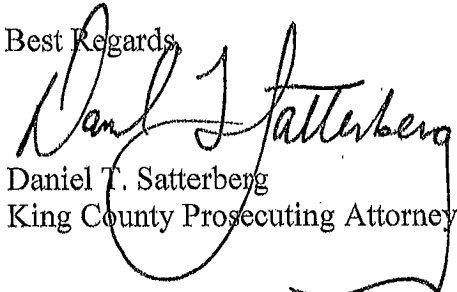
This Court has already recognized the efficiency that can be gained by utilizing new technologies such as electronic mail. For example, GR 30 allows the courts to accept documents for filing by electronic transmission. Similarly, streamlining the warrant process will enhance the efficacy and fairness of law enforcement.

In a quickly-evolving criminal investigation, time is often of the essence. Allowing an officer to submit information to a Superior Court judicial officer by electronic mail in order to obtain authorization for a search or arrest warrant will assist police officers in meeting new expectations for warrants prior to searches, and be a greater convenience to the judicial officer. Moreover, the expeditious consideration of warrants will not only result in a more economic use of resources, it will also enhance public safety. Faster action on warrant applications will enable law enforcement officers to more promptly confront and control volatile situations and emergent events.

Sworn testimony submitted by electronic mail also affords a more efficient method for any subsequent review of the issuance of a warrant because it obviates the need for transcription, which is currently required for a recorded telephonic statement.

I respectfully urge you to adopt the proposed amendments to CrR 2.3 and CrR 3.2.1.

Best Regards,



Daniel T. Satterberg
King County Prosecuting Attorney